

**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
October 15, 2020**

The Board of Directors of the Ozarks Transportation Organization met at its scheduled time of 12:00 p.m. using the Zoom video conferencing platform. The meeting was also livestreamed on Facebook for public participation.

The following members were present:

Mr. Chuck Branch, Citizen-at-Large
Mr. Jerry Compton, Citizen-at-Large
Mr. Brad Gray, City of Willard (a)
Mr. Skip Jansen, City Utilities
Mr. Andrew Lear, City of Springfield
Mr. James O’Neal, Citizen-at-Large

Mr. Ralph Phillips, Christian County
Mr. Mike Schilling, City of Springfield
Ms. Martha Smartt, City of Strafford (a)
Mr. Dan Smith, City of Springfield (a)
Mr. Richard Walker, Citizen-at-Large
Mr. Brian Weiler, Airport Board (a)

(a) *Denotes alternate given voting privileges as a substitute for voting member not present*

Others Present: Mr. Steve Campbell and Mr. Frank Miller, MoDOT; Ms. Joelle Cannon and Mr. Dan Wadlington, Senator Roy Blunt’s Office; Mr. Dave Faucett, Ms. Sara Fields, Ms. Natasha Longpine, Ms. Nicole Stokes, and Mr. Andy Thomason, Ozarks Transportation Organization.

Vice-Chair Lear called the meeting to order at approximately 12:03 p.m.

I. Administration

A. Welcome and Roll Call

Self-introductions were not made due to the challenges associated with video conferencing.

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Mr. Harold Bengsch	Absent	Mr. Skip Jansen	Present
Mr. Chuck Branch	Present	Mr. Andrew Lear	Present
Mr. David Cameron	Absent	Mr. James O’Neal	Present
Mr. Steve Childers	Absent	Mr. Ralph Phillips	Present
Mr. Jerry Compton	Present	Mr. Mike Schilling	Present
Mr. Travis Cossey	Absent	Ms. Martha Smartt	Present
Mr. Bob Dixon	Absent	Mr. Dan Smith	Present
Ms. Jan Fisk	Absent	Mr. Richard Walker	Present
Mr. Brad Gray	Present	Mr. Brian Weiler	Present
Ms. Debra Hickey	Absent		

A quorum was present.

B. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Mr. Weiler moved to approve the October 15, 2020 agenda. Mr. Jansen seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Mr. Harold Bengsch	Absent	Mr. Skip Jansen	Aye
Mr. Chuck Branch	Aye	Mr. Andrew Lear	Aye
Mr. David Cameron	Absent	Mr. James O'Neal	Aye
Mr. Steve Childers	Absent	Mr. Ralph Phillips	Aye
Mr. Jerry Compton	Aye	Mr. Mike Schilling	Aye
Mr. Travis Cossey	Absent	Ms. Martha Smartt	Aye
Mr. Bob Dixon	Absent	Mr. Dan Smith	Aye
Ms. Jan Fisk	Absent	Mr. Richard Walker	Aye
Mr. Brad Gray	Aye	Mr. Brian Weiler	Aye
Ms. Debra Hickey	Absent		

The motion passed.

C. Approval of August 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Jansen moved to approve the minutes from the August 20, 2020 meeting. Mr. O'Neal seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Mr. Harold Bengsch	Absent	Mr. Skip Jansen	Aye
Mr. Chuck Branch	Aye	Mr. Andrew Lear	Aye
Mr. David Cameron	Absent	Mr. James O'Neal	Aye
Mr. Steve Childers	Absent	Mr. Ralph Phillips	--
Mr. Jerry Compton	Aye	Mr. Mike Schilling	Aye
Mr. Travis Cossey	Absent	Ms. Martha Smartt	Aye
Mr. Bob Dixon	Absent	Mr. Dan Smith	Aye
Ms. Jan Fisk	Absent	Mr. Richard Walker	Aye
Mr. Brad Gray	Aye	Mr. Brian Weiler	Aye
Ms. Debra Hickey	Absent		

The motion passed.

D. Public Comment Period for All Agenda Items

Mr. Lear advised there were public comments included in the packet. Mr. Lear asked for comments or questions. There were none.

E. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Fields reported there are no new projects in terms of funding given the COVID delay of the STIP. Ms. Fields advised the first Cost Share deadline is in March 2021, if anyone was interested in applying. She shared the website with the Board that details the deadlines and program details.

Ms. Fields stated OTO is still conducting meetings through Zoom. There has been a delay in work on the Long Range Transportation Plan that was scheduled over the summer. Meetings are beginning again with the Technical Planning Committee for the purpose of drafting the LRTP to have it completed by next year.

OTO staff is continuing training on-line which has reduced costs associated with travel to the trainings.

F. MoDOT Update

Mr. Miller reported the number of bridges categorized as poor condition has ballooned since 2015. The Governor’s Focus on Bridges program will provide some much needed relief. There will be 33 structures replaced or rehabilitated through this program. He stated the I-44 Project Bridge Rebuild, the design-build between Joplin and Springfield, will include another 19 structures which will cut into the 33 structures. They are having conversations to follow with another bridge bundle that would make further improvements on Interstate 44. This would include a perimeter/parallel corridor to I-44 to capture some rural bridges into that program. He stated MoDOT has been averaging 20-25 structures per year in the STIP for replacement or rehabilitation. In the last 5-year period, they are averaging about 35 structures per year that age or deteriorate into the poor condition category, which is challenging. Their Asset Management Program and Forecasting Model indicates 2022 will be the trough of poor condition bridges within the Southwest District and see a turnaround in this area.

Mr. Miller stated their current focus is readying for winter operations, how to prioritize and be strategic in ensuring they can provide a continued level of service through the Springfield area. They have been advertising several jobs throughout the district. Their goal is to have just over 2 drivers per snowplow. They struggle to fill these positions around the Springfield area.

Mr. Miller said MoDOT’s major projects continue to remain on schedule. They received a new revenue report for the month of September. The fuel tax came through slightly above projections. This is the first time that has happened in the last 270 days. There will be conversations regarding opening and confirming some letting schedules for the next 3-4 months.

Mr. Lear asked why the Springfield area was difficult to hire for their winter operations. Mr. Miller stated due to the competing industries and availability of jobs with competitive starting pay.

G. Legislative Reports

Mr. Wadlington with Senator Blunt’s Office reported they negotiated an extension to the fiscal year for funding avoiding a government shutdown. This included an extension of the Highway Bill. Details of an infrastructure program will not be known until after the election.

Ms. Fields stated, with the 1-year extension of the Highway Bill, OTO will be getting an annual allocation for the STBG-Urban, TAP, and BRO funds that go to the counties.

II. New Business

A. **FY 2021 UPWP/Operational Budget Amendment One**

Ms. Fields stated there is an amendment to the 2021 Unified Planning Work Program, with the following proposed changes; to add the purchase of aerial photos, to decrease the salary/fringe line, to decrease the transportation consultant line, and to remove the 2021-2024 TIP. The total budget amount will remain the same.

Mr. Weiler made a motion to approve the FY 2021 UPWP Amendment One and Operating Budget Amendment One. Mr. Schilling seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Mr. Harold Bengsch	Absent	Mr. Skip Jansen	Aye
Mr. Chuck Branch	Aye	Mr. Andrew Lear	Aye
Mr. David Cameron	Absent	Mr. James O'Neal	Aye
Mr. Steve Childers	Absent	Mr. Ralph Phillips	Aye
Mr. Jerry Compton	Aye	Mr. Mike Schilling	Aye
Mr. Travis Cossey	Absent	Ms. Martha Smartt	Aye
Mr. Bob Dixon	Absent	Mr. Dan Smith	Aye
Ms. Jan Fisk	Absent	Mr. Richard Walker	Aye
Mr. Brad Gray	Aye	Mr. Brian Weiler	Aye
Ms. Debra Hickey	Absent		

The motion passed.

B. **Chesterfield Lofts Lease Renewal**

Ms. Fields reported the OTO relocated to the current location in Chesterfield Village in 2016. At the time, OTO entered a five-year lease with two five-year lease renewal options. Each renewal includes a one-time five percent increase in rent that is fixed for the term of the lease. The new rent will be \$4,505. The renewal option must be exercised by the end of October. The term of the renewal will be April 1, 2021 through March 30, 2026.

The current space includes a large conference room, five offices, a small conference area, copy area, and front desk reception area. OTO currently has five employees and has space for two additional employees. In addition, the small conference area could be converted to an additional working space. The current space should serve the OTO needs over the next five years.

Mr. Lear asked for clarification that the rent was a fixed amount with no escalation over the next 5 years. Ms. Fields confirmed it is a fixed amount with no escalation.

Mr. Jansen made a motion to approve the Chesterfield Lofts, LLC lease renewal for five years expiring March 30, 2026. Mr. Schilling seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Mr. Harold Bengsch	Absent	Mr. Skip Jansen	Aye
Mr. Chuck Branch	Aye	Mr. Andrew Lear	Aye
Mr. David Cameron	Absent	Mr. James O'Neal	Aye
Mr. Steve Childers	Absent	Mr. Ralph Phillips	Aye
Mr. Jerry Compton	Aye	Mr. Mike Schilling	Aye
Mr. Travis Cossey	Absent	Ms. Martha Smartt	Aye
Mr. Bob Dixon	Absent	Mr. Dan Smith	Aye
Ms. Jan Fisk	Absent	Mr. Richard Walker	--
Mr. Brad Gray	Aye	Mr. Brian Weiler	Aye
Ms. Debra Hickey	Absent		

The motion passed.

C. 2019 State of Transportation Report

Ms. Longpine stated as another step to inform the public of transportation concerns in the region, OTO has produced a State of Transportation Report, which includes achievements and statistics from 2019. This report is produced annually and made available at public events and on the OTO website. Accompanying the report is an infographic showing progress on the performance measures from the long range transportation plan, *Transportation Plan 2040*.

Mr. Schilling asked if there was data on speeding and if it was taken into account in any way, if it is related to congestion, and if it is reflected in any accident figures. Ms. Longpine stated that data has not been looked at during this current year, but it could be reviewed. Speed is tracked along the corridors with the travel time software, but if the rest of the traffic is moving slow, an overall change in speed may not occur.

Ms. Longpine advised this agenda item was informational only.

D. Amendment Number Six to the FY 2020-2023 TIP

Ms. Longpine said there are 16 items requested by MoDOT and OTO members included as part of Amendment Number Six to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program. Ms. Longpine highlighted the 16 items.

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve Amendment 6 to the FY 2020-2023 TIP. Mr. Compton seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Mr. Harold Bengsch	Absent	Mr. Skip Jansen	Aye
Mr. Chuck Branch	Aye	Mr. Andrew Lear	Aye

Mr. David Cameron	Absent	Mr. James O'Neal	Aye
Mr. Steve Childers	Absent	Mr. Ralph Phillips	Aye
Mr. Jerry Compton	Aye	Mr. Mike Schilling	Aye
Mr. Travis Cossey	Absent	Ms. Martha Smartt	Aye
Mr. Bob Dixon	Absent	Mr. Dan Smith	Aye
Ms. Jan Fisk	Absent	Mr. Richard Walker	Aye
Mr. Brad Gray	Aye	Mr. Brian Weiler	Aye
Ms. Debra Hickey	Absent		

The motion passed.

E. Federal Functional Classification Change Request

Mr. Thomason reported pursuant to §470.105.b, the State of Missouri, in conjunction with OTO, must maintain a functional classification map. This map is different from the Major Thoroughfare Plan, which is part of the Long Range Transportation Plan. The Federal Functional Classification System designates Federal Aid Highways, i.e. those eligible for federal funding.

The City of Strafford has requested the following changes to the federal functional classification system.

- 1) **Roadway Name-** N. Orchard Drive --- from Stan Harriman Blvd to E. Evergreen Street
 Stan Harriman Blvd --- from N. Orchard Drive to Hwy 125
 E. Evergreen Street --- from N. Orchard Drive to Hwy 125

Current Functional Classification – Local – All

Requested Functional Classification – Minor Collector – All

Major Thoroughfare Plan – Collector – All

Reasoning -- These roadways collect traffic from local roads and distributes traffic to Highway 125 and should be reclassified as Minor Collector. Additionally, these roadways provide access from the northern residential areas of the City to the schools, shops, parks, and businesses in the City.

Mr. Schilling made a motion to approve the Federal Functional Class Change. Mr. O'Neal seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Mr. Harold Bengsch	Absent	Mr. Skip Jansen	Aye
Mr. Chuck Branch	Aye	Mr. Andrew Lear	Aye
Mr. David Cameron	Absent	Mr. James O'Neal	Aye
Mr. Steve Childers	Absent	Mr. Ralph Phillips	Aye
Mr. Jerry Compton	Aye	Mr. Mike Schilling	Aye
Mr. Travis Cossey	Absent	Ms. Martha Smartt	Aye
Mr. Bob Dixon	Absent	Mr. Dan Smith	Aye
Ms. Jan Fisk	Absent	Mr. Richard Walker	--

Mr. Brad Gray	Aye	Mr. Brian Weiler	Aye
Ms. Debra Hickey	Absent		

The motion passed.

F. STIP Prioritization Update

Ms. Fields reported, at the end of 2019, OTO worked to prioritize projects for the region. This prioritization is used by MoDOT to program new projects in the STIP. After working with MoDOT through the winter, the Technical Planning Committee agreed to a list of projects that could be added with the available funding. A Draft STIP was developed and submitted to MoDOT leadership for final approval in March. The Draft STIP was never approved due to the funding challenges associated with COVID.

The projects proposed in various years between FY 2021 and FY 2025 include:

- James River Freeway widening from National to Kansas Expressway
- I-44 widening from US65 to Glenstone
- CC/22nd Intersection
- ITS Improvements

OTO typically reprioritizes every year, however, OTO staff is not planning a new round of prioritizations as there were no projects officially funded resulting from the last prioritization. In addition, travel time data is not reliable given the changing travel patterns from the pandemic.

Ms. Fields stated this was informational only.

III. Other Business

A. Board of Directors Member Announcements

There were no member announcements.

B. Transportation Issues for Board of Directors Member Review

Ms. Cannon from Senator Blunt's Office reported the Continuing Resolution that was just passed included a 1-year extension to the FAST Act. She reported the Senate is doing the confirmation hearings. An update on a deal involving CARES Act funding or more relief for COVID probably will not happen until after the election.

C. Articles for Board of Directors Member Information

Ms. Fields noted the Governor appointed a new member to the Highway Commission. The new appointee was not from this area.


IV. Adjourn meeting

Mr. Weiler made a motion the meeting be adjourned at 12:53 P.M. Mr. Schilling seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Mr. Harold Bengsch	Absent	Mr. Skip Jansen	Aye
Mr. Chuck Branch	Aye	Mr. Andrew Lear	Aye
Mr. David Cameron	Absent	Mr. James O'Neal	Aye
Mr. Steve Childers	Absent	Mr. Ralph Phillips	Aye
Mr. Jerry Compton	Aye	Mr. Mike Schilling	Aye
Mr. Travis Cossey	Absent	Ms. Martha Smartt	Aye
Mr. Bob Dixon	Absent	Mr. Dan Smith	Aye
Ms. Jan Fisk	Absent	Mr. Richard Walker	--
Mr. Brad Gray	Aye	Mr. Brian Weiler	Aye
Ms. Debra Hickey	Absent		

The motion passed.

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Steve Childers
OTO Secretary